

From: [Laurrell, R. David](#)
To: [Williams, Susan \(DHCD\);](#)
cc: [KIM PAYNE ;](#)
Subject: Mandates Task Force
Date: Thursday, December 01, 2011 3:35:52 PM

Susan –

Good afternoon. I'm not sure if adding items at this point is still going on, but if it is would you please put the following into the mix.

Thanks.

David

*The localities and Compensation Board currently maintain two separate annual budget processes and monthly payroll system data replication. The localities use their regular payroll process to pay constitutional officers and their employees and the Compensation Board uses similar data reported by the localities in the COIN System to provide locality reimbursements. Many localities already provide supplements for approved salary levels. Additionally, the Compensation Board manages and reviews requests for re-appropriation of vacancy and turnover savings through a different policy than the localities, even though the localities are then required to appropriate the funds at the local level. This duplication of effort combined with declining state resources for constitutional offices adds an additional financial burden to both the state and the localities.

As an alternative to the current system the state could establish approved staffing levels and minimum pay levels eligible for state reimbursement (which they already do now), establish a lump sum reimbursement amount to the localities (which is basically the annual approved budget), and for those localities that certify that they meet the approved staffing levels and provide at least the minimum pay levels, the state would do a lump sum reimbursement method based on the approved budget.

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From: [Laurrell, R. David](#)
To: mandaterelief@dchd.virginia.gov;
cc: [Kim payne](#); [Dean Lynch](#);
Subject: List of Mandates for Consideration to Eliminate
Date: Monday, October 17, 2011 12:07:11 PM
Attachments: [Mandates to Temporarily Lift or Abolish - 20111014 - Without Education.docx](#)

Susan –

Good morning. I hope you're doing well and enjoying this beautiful fall weather!

Please find attached a list of items for consideration with the Local Government Mandate Review Task Force. The attached includes only non-school items for Campbell County. We are currently working with our schools and will have a list of school related items in the near future for submission. Also, FYI, I am taking this list to the Board of Supervisors on November 1st to see if they want to request temporary suspension of any or all of them under 2.2-113. The Board has previously adopted the items on the list, however has not taken any specific action to request suspension under 2.2-113. If they take any action along those lines on November 1st we'll pass along the resolution for consideration. My understanding is that school's related items are not covered under 2.2-113, so they are not going to the Board for consideration for temporary suspension. If that is incorrect please let me know.

Let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks.

David

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CAMPBELL COUNTY

Mandates to Temporarily Lift or Abolish

Updated – October 14, 2011

1. In General – Establish an ongoing dialogue between the state and localities on what programs should be provided and the best options on how to provide funding. Campbell County urges the Governor and General Assembly to establish a long term planning process to openly discuss and make recommendations on state and local program delivery and best options on how to provide funding. The localities are integral players in the delivery of state mandated services. At the present time there is no coordinated, long term mechanism to address the issue of service delivery priorities and related funding. Source – R. David Laurrell, County Administrator
2. In General - provide full funding for constitutionally mandated programs. The Campbell County Board of Supervisors support a requirement that all legislation mandated by the General Assembly that has a cost associated with it be borne by the Commonwealth and contain a sunset clause. In the event that funding is no longer provided by the Commonwealth at a future time the mandate would sunset and no longer be binding on the localities. Source – Campbell County Board of Supervisors
3. In general – provide equal taxing authority for Counties and Cities. The current mandate that places unequal taxing authority on Counties forces localities to utilize limited revenue sources that do not support diversification and taxpayer equity. Source – Campbell County Board of Supervisors
4. Government Accounting Standards Board Requirements – Savings \$50,000 per year. The County is required to meet GASB requirements by state code reference. While the concept of meeting a plethora of standards to help insure financial reporting integrity is a good one, the actual requirements for implementation provide little if any actual value to the County or its citizens. The standards require significant internal and external resources to accomplish, but the outcomes don't affect much. Source – R. David Laurrell, County Administrator
5. Annual Recycling Survey Report – Savings \$10,000 per year. The County is required to prepare a recycling survey annually to determine the amount of material recycled each year in the County. Most of the recycling is done by businesses in the County and we prepare a survey and mail it out, call most to remind them to send the information back, compile it and then send to Richmond. Frequently we have to address follow-up questions. The survey is good information but does not change the amount of material recycled. It should be performed every two or three years, and not annually. Source – Clifton Tweedy, PE – Deputy County Administrator

6. Non-Essential Reporting Requirements – Savings \$40,000 per year. It is somewhat mindboggling the amount of reporting and information that localities provide for statutory purposes or to maintain funding. Examples include the annual cost to provide data to the state for the *Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures*, and monthly duplication of payroll reports for employees of Constitutional Offices in order to obtain reimbursement for state supported local employees from the Compensation Board. Compensation Board funding should be made on a lump sum basis for those localities who meet certain standards without duplication of accounting and payroll processes. A thorough internal review by the state of what is actually required and necessary would reduce millions in unneeded costs annually to the various localities. Source – R. David Laurrell, County Administrator
7. Landfill Surface and Groundwater Testing – Savings \$100,000 per year. Due to offsite migration of landfill contaminants the County is required to perform monthly tests of groundwater and surface water to monitor water quality. The process to remediate groundwater impact occurs over a period of years and is a slow process. We see little if any change on a month to month basis. If the County was permitted to perform surface and groundwater testing on an annual or semi-annual basis to monitor the progress of the remediation efforts the County would reduce expenditures by over \$100,000 annually with no other adverse impact to the process. Source – Clifton Tweedy, PE, Deputy County Administrator
8. Retiree Health Insurance Credit Cost Shift – Savings \$200,000 per year. In 2000 the state adopted a Retiree Health Insurance Credit. Localities were assured that the cost for this program would remain a state expense. In 2002 the cost was shifted to localities through VRS. This program should be fully paid for by the state as promised or eliminated by the state as no longer begin funded. Source – R. David Laurrell, County Administrator
9. Allow localities the option to require employees hired before July 1, 2010 to pay the 5% employee share of VRS. Employee benefit programs are a local issue and should not be mandated by the state. Additionally, it is somewhat ironic that the state has adopted this approach, but has not allowed localities to do it. Source – Campbell County Board of Supervisors
10. Require that political parties pay for the costs of local primary elections and/or changing the election laws to decrease the costs of such primaries to the localities through alternative means such as paper ballots, Countywide voting place, absentee voting, or similar change – Savings \$15,000 per primary. Source – Campbell County Board of Supervisors
11. Delete local funding requirement for Line of Duty Act benefit – Savings \$40,000 per year. The 2010 General Assembly included budget language transitioning the cost of the Line of Duty Act to local governments while still allowing the state to administer the program with no local determination on eligibility or program design. The localities had no input into the design of the LODA benefits program, but are being asked to fund the

costs now that the program has expenditures beyond what the state wants to pay. The state should pay for the program, make LODA coverage optional at the local level, or provide localities the option to design the program specific to local needs. Additionally, LODA administration should fall under the State Workers Compensation Commission and not under the State Comptroller's Office if it continues to be a state administered program. Source – Virginia Association of Counties, Campbell County Board of Supervisors

12. Restore per diem funding for state and local responsible prisoners held in jails as local prisoners – Savings \$250,000 per year. In 2010 the state adjusted the per diem reimbursement rate for state prisoners. Source – Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority, Clifton Tweedy, PE, Deputy County Administrator
13. Increase funding for the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act – Savings \$200,000 per year. Localities in Virginia face an estimated cost of more than \$7 billion to comply with the new Watershed Improvement Plan under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The state and federal governments should share more of the cost burden of these mandates. The local monitoring requirements in the Act should be removed. Local governments are required under the Act to devote staff resources to monitor the five-year septic tank provisions of the Act, however that responsibility falls with the Virginia Department of Health and not the localities. Localities are additionally required to review soil and water runoff control and water quality assessments generated by agricultural operations within their jurisdictions, and to take enforcement action when necessary. This function is more properly the responsibility of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation or the Virginia Department of Agriculture. Source – Virginia Association of Counties, R. David Laurrell, County Administrator
14. Revise remediation standards for new Cobalt limits at landfills – Savings \$100,000 initially and \$15,000 annually. Landfills statewide are facing millions of dollars in additional groundwater remediation costs due to new, lower standards for Cobalt detection. Cobalt is a naturally occurring background substance in most areas in Virginia; however the Department of Environmental Quality instituted new standards in 2010 lowering the remediation threshold to near background levels. This has resulted in many landfills in the Commonwealth being required to remediate groundwater for Cobalt when the amount of Cobalt detected is most likely associated with normal background levels and levels well below thresholds having any negative impact on public health or safety. This lowering of constituents is likely to occur in the future for other contaminants resulting in similar cost increases for each occurrence. Source – Clifton Tweedy, PE, Deputy County Administrator
15. Permanently remove the mandate for localities to build and maintain court facilities. State law requires localities to assume the mandated cost to construct and maintain court facilities. If, in the sole opinion of the local circuit court, localities do not meet those requirements, the court can order the locality to build a new courthouse without regard to the fiscal condition of the local government. Additionally, the state has not established a

process or incentives for court officials to foster regional facilities. Source – Virginia Association of Counties

16. Pursue a statewide bailout under the Voting Rights Act. Many localities in Virginia incur substantial expenses on an annual and ten year cycle for redistricting and voting precinct changes. The Commonwealth should pursue a statewide exemption for Virginia under the Voting Rights Act to eliminate this unnecessary expense and time burden. Source – Campbell County Board of Supervisors.